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BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2002-345-E

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S.C. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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In RE: Application of Carolina Power	)	
& Light Company for a Certificate of	)	
Environmental Compatibility and Public	)	APPLICATION FOR
Convenience and Necessity for the	)	CERTIFICATE OF
Construction and Operation of a New	)	ENVIRONMENTAL
230-kV Transmission Line From its	)	COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC
Darlington County Generating Plant	)	CONVENIENCE AND
Switchyard near Hartsville, South	)	NECESSITY
Carolina to its Florence 230-kV Substation	)	
Near Florence, South Carolina	)	

Carolina Power & Light Company ("CP&L" or "Company") hereby applies to the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate a 230-kV transmission line from its Darlington County Generating Plant 230-kV switchyard near Hartsville, South Carolina to its Florence transmission Substation near Florence, South Carolina. This application is filed pursuant to the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. §§ 58-33-10 et seq. (1976 & Cum. Supp. 2000).

In support of this application, CP&L respectfully shows to the Commission:

1. **Applicant.** The Company's correct name and address are Carolina Power & Light Company, Post Office Box 1551, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602. CP&L is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and authorized to conduct business in South Carolina. Its principal office is located at 410 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601. The Company is an

electric utility primarily engaged in the business of generating, transmitting, delivering and furnishing electricity to the public for compensation.

## **2. Project Description.**

NAME OF LINE: Darlington County Plant – Florence 230-kV Transmission Line

EXTENDING FROM: Darlington County Generating Plant 230-kV Switchyard near Hartsville, South Carolina

TO: Florence 230-kV Transmission Substation near Florence, South Carolina

ESTIMATED LENGTH: 37 MILES

WIDTH OF RIGHT-OF-WAY: 70 to 100 FEET

DESIGN VOLTAGE: 230-kV

NORMAL CAPACITY: 650 MVA

CONDUCTOR: Single 1590 ACSR with one overhead ground wire

CONFIGURATION: Vertical Delta Horizontal Vee

TYPES OF STRUCTURES: Weathered steel, single-pole

NOMINAL HEIGHT: 100 feet

AREAS IN WHICH FACILITIES ARE TO BE LOCATED IN OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SOUTH CAROLINA:

COUNTIES: Darlington, Florence and Lee

MUNICIPALITIES: Florence, Darlington, and Hartsville

A portion of the proposed route falls within the northern city limits of Florence. The proposed route passes near the cities of Darlington and Hartsville and is primarily located in Darlington County.

NATIONAL OR STATE PARKS OR FORESTS DIRECTLY EFFECTED OR THE NEAREST FACILITY: Nearest facility: Sand Hills State Forest in Chesterfield County, approximately four miles north of the Darlington County Generating Plant

MAJOR WATERWAYS CROSSED: None

MAJOR HIGHWAYS: S.C. 151, U.S. Highway 15/S.C. 34, S.C. 403, U.S. Highway 401, S.C. 340, U.S. Highway 52, Interstate 95

3. **Need and Necessity.** CP&L's continuous assessment of electric system requirements has identified the need for this transmission project – one of several planned or under way in CP&L's service territory – to help ensure a continued reliable supply of electric service to homes and businesses. Projected electric load in the Darlington County / Florence County area is expected to exceed system capability under peak contingency conditions by mid-2005. [The details and supporting documentation regarding system operation and peak load growth are contained in pages 2-2 of Exhibit B] Additional constraints on the existing electric transmission system in the area, coupled with significant customer growth in both population and electric usage, have prompted the need for CP&L to upgrade its transmission facilities. This project will improve the power quality and reliability in the area, and reduce the frequency and duration of potential power outages. Without the transmission system upgrades, load in the area will exceed the electrical system capability in the near future.

One of the implications of the overloading on the existing transmission lines would be to limit the capability of these lines to move power from the Robinson and Darlington County generating plants, requiring a reduction in output at those generating plants and impairing CP&L's ability to provide reliable service. This project will reduce these contingency loadings to acceptable values, allowing the Robinson / Darlington County generating complex to continue to operate at full output.

Installing the new Darlington Plant – Florence 230-kV transmission line will provide relief for these overloading conditions and enable CP&L to fully utilize the

Robinson and Darlington County generating plants to meet customer demands for electricity.

**4. Project Location.** The origin of the new transmission line will be the Darlington County Plant, located along the western shore of Lake Robinson, northwest of Hartsville. The terminus of the new line will be the Florence Substation, located in northern Florence near Douglas Drive, just north of Vista Street.

The preferred route exits the Darlington County Plant to the west heading toward the boundary of Darlington County and Chesterfield County. It then turns south, then southeast near the boundary of Darlington County and Lee County, paralleling a gas pipeline through a small portion of northeast Lee County. The preferred route then crosses back into Darlington County and after crossing State Route (S.C.) 403, heads east, eventually crossing U.S. Highway 401. After crossing this highway, the preferred route parallels an existing transmission line heading east. Near Ebenezer Road, the preferred route turns northeast, across U.S. Highway 52 paralleling an existing Santee-Cooper transmission line. It then turns back southeast crossing into Florence County. The preferred route then turns east, paralleling another existing transmission line along the Darlington County / Florence County line. After crossing Interstate 95, the preferred route angles south heading into the Florence substation parallel to another CP&L transmission line. A map of the proposed route is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**5. Environmental Assessment.** Attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit B, is the "Routing Study and Environmental Report for the Proposed Darlington County Plant – Florence 230-kV Transmission Lines" dated December 3, 2002 and prepared by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.

The environmental report contains a summary of CP&L's route selection process, public involvement activities, and the potential environmental impacts of the selected route and alternative routes studied, as well as mitigation measures and the resulting overall impact of the proposed transmission line. Appendices of the report include copies of agency correspondence, public involvement documentation, photographs of typical structures and supporting route analysis information.

In conducting the environmental assessment, CP&L examined a study area encompassing approximately 300 square miles and examined 42 alternative route segments that could be combined to form 663 possible line routes.

An extensive inventory of natural and human resources, including topography, soils, hydrology, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, threatened and endangered plant and animal species, land uses, cultural resources, population, employment and visual character was conducted within the study area.

Each of the alternative routes was evaluated against the potential environmental impact and the criteria established from the public workshops conducted by CP&L.

The preferred route was selected because it would have the least overall environmental impacts. It parallels both existing transmission lines and gas pipelines, which reduces the required right-of-way and minimizes impacts to agricultural land, woodland and wetlands. The preferred route also has minimal residential impacts compared to most of the other routes.

By following the Company's standard construction practices, the route selection process described, and utilizing mitigation techniques, most of the potential impacts of the selected route will be either avoided or minimized. As a result, the construction and

operation of the proposed project will have minimal effects on the natural and human resources within the study area.

**6. Public Involvement Activities.** To determine community values relative to the proposed project, the route selection process included two forms of public input. Input was first obtained through meetings with public officials and local agencies, and second, through public information meetings held by CP&L. Input was also obtained from the public via information available on the CP&L Website. This input was useful in determining the values and attitudes of the residents and public officials regarding the project, thereby enabling CP&L's project team to identify the most appropriate routing criteria to be used to evaluate the routes. The public participation program also provided the public with an understanding of the need for the project, the decision-making criteria used to select the preferred route, and a forum to express opinions about the proposed project.

CP&L Community Relations personnel met with city managers and county commissioners and other local officials to notify them of the project. Burns & McDonnell representatives met with local agency personnel to gather information on new or proposed developments and other constraints in the project area, including the Florence City / County Planning Department Manager, Florence County Recreation Department Director, Florence City Recreation Director, Darlington County Planning Director and Right-of-Way Agent, the Darlington County Parks and Recreation Director, and the Darlington County Mapping and GIS Department.

State and federal agencies were contacted by letter to provide input on permitting issues such as threatened and endangered species, wetlands, forest resources, and cultural

resources. Copies of agency correspondence are included in Appendix A to the Routing Study and Environmental Report, Exhibit B.

To provide residents of the area with information about the project and gather public input on route alternatives, CP&L held two open-forum informational workshops in May, 2002. The first meeting was held in Darlington on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The second meeting was held in Florence on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The media and public were first notified of the projects and workshops through a news release about a month prior to the workshops. The workshops were then advertised in The Florence Morning News, The News and Press (Darlington), and The Messenger (Hartsville) one-week before the workshops. An informational letter describing the project and advertising the workshop was mailed to all property owners within 200 feet of the alternate routes. Information about the project, a map of the study area, and input forms were also available on CP&L's Website. Copies of this information are included in the Routing Study and Environmental Report, Exhibit B.

The meetings included displays with information on project need, engineering, route alternatives, environmental management, and right-of-way requirements. Representatives from CP&L and Burns & McDonnell were present to address the public's questions and take comments. A system map of the transmission lines and substations currently serving the study area and an interactive computer program illustrating future power expectations were displayed to help show the need for the project. Potential routes for the proposed transmission line were depicted on aerial photographs and U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps. No preferred or alternate route had been selected at the time of the workshops. Photographs and drawings showing the types of

structures that would be used for the project were displayed. CP&L staff discussed right-of-way acquisition and maintenance, and other issues associated with transmission lines.

Participants at the open house received a written questionnaire to communicate their opinions on the routing criteria, the segment locations, preferred route locations, and issues of concern regarding the project. This questionnaire was also available on CP&L's project Website. Appendix B to the Routing Study and Environmental Report, Exhibit B, contains a sample questionnaire and a summary of the responses received to the questionnaire. The results from the questionnaire are discussed in Section 4 to the Routing Study and Environmental Report, Exhibit B.

The questionnaires, personal conversations, letters, petitions, and other comments collected from the workshops provided feedback to the project team on project issues and concerns.

CP&L and Burns & McDonnell staff reviewed all public input before evaluating the routes.

Questions 2 and 3 on the questionnaire asked respondents to rank the importance of routing factors as issues of concern in their area or to suggest additional factors of importance to them. The principal concerns regarding the project were length across agricultural land and proximity to residences. Cost and total length of the line were the public's lowest priorities. The public's rankings were weighted according to the order in which all respondents prioritized them.

The public input was used in the evaluation through the weighting of the routing criteria and in making the final selection of the preferred and alternate routes.

**7. Proof of service.** Exhibit C, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is proof



of service of a copy of this application pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-120(2) on the Chief Executive Officer of each municipality and the head of each state and local government agency charged with the duty of protecting the environment or of planning land use in the area in the county in which any portion of the transmission line is to be located.

**8. Public Notice.** Attached as Exhibit D, and made a part hereof, is the public notice given to persons residing in the municipalities entitled to receive notice pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58.33.120(3) by publication of a summary of the application, the date on or about which it is to be filed, and the newspapers of general circulation in which such notice was published. This notice served to inform such persons of the filing of this application and proof of notice will be filed with the Commission when received from the various newspapers identified.

**9. Correspondence or Communications.** The name, title, address and telephone number of the persons to whom correspondence or communications relating to the application should be addressed are as follows:

William Frederick Austin, Esquire  
Austin, Lewis, and Rodgers, P.A.  
Post Office Box 11716  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
803-256-4000

Len S. Anthony  
Manager – Regulatory Affairs  
Progress Energy Service Company  
410 South Wilmington Street/PEB 17A4  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602  
919-546-6367

WHEREFORE, Carolina Power & Light Company respectfully requests that the Commission issue a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity for the project described herein.

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of December 2002.

Carolina Power & Light Company

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. S. Anthony", written over a horizontal line.

Len S. Anthony  
Manager – Regulatory Affairs  
Progress Energy Services Company  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602  
(919) 546-6367

William F. Austin, Esquire  
Austin, Lewis, and Rodgers, P.A.  
Post Office Box 11716  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

ATTORNEYS FOR THE PETITIONER

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that I, Len S. Anthony, have caused to be mailed this day, one (1) copy of the Application to the South Carolina Public Service Commission by Carolina Power & Light Company for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity and a Notice of Filing pursuant to §58-33-120(2) of the S.C. Code Ann. (1976) by placing a copy of the same in the care and custody of the United States Postal Service, with proper first-class postage affixed thereto and addressed as follows:

Earl Hunter, Commissioner  
S.C. Department of Health and  
Environmental Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

John Durst, Director  
S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and  
Tourism  
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 248  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dr. Paul Sandifer, Executive Director  
S.C. Department of Natural Resources  
Post Office Box 167  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Rodger E. Stroup, Director  
S.C. Department of Archives and History  
8301 Parklane Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Dr. Bruce Rippeteau  
Director and State Archaeologist  
S.C. Inst. Of Archaeology and Anthropology  
1321 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208-0071

Elizabeth S. Mabry, Executive Director  
S.C. Department of Transportation  
Post Office Box 387  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Phyllis Griffiths  
Darlington County Administrator  
1 Public Square, Room 210  
Darlington, South Carolina 29532

Anne Warr  
Darlington County Council Chairman  
Post Office Box 828  
Lamar, South Carolina 29506

Joe King  
Florence County Administrator  
180 North Irby Street  
Florence, South Carolina 29501

Terry Alexander  
Florence County Council Chairman  
Post Office Box 1822  
Florence, South Carolina 29503

Jim LaCoste  
Lee County Administrator  
Post Office Box 309  
Bishopville, South Carolina 29010

Charles Beasley  
Lee County Council Chairman  
2531 Raccoon Road  
Mayesville, South Carolina 29104

The Honorable Frank Willis  
Mayor of Florence  
111 Alabama Drive  
Florence, South Carolina 29501

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Carolina Power & Light Company is making Application to the South Carolina Public Service Commission on or about December 3, 2002, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction of the Darlington County Plant to Florence 230-kV transmission line in Darlington, Florence and Lee Counties, South Carolina. This application is in accordance with the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, Chapter 33, Title 58, as amended entitled "Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act."

Copies of the application, including the environmental report, are available for public review at the following locations:

South Carolina Public Service Commission  
Saluda Building  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, South Carolina

Florence County Library  
319 South Irby Street  
Florence, South Carolina

Darlington County Library  
Darlington Branch  
204 North Main Street  
Darlington, South Carolina

Darlington County Library  
Hartsville Branch  
147 West College Avenue  
Hartsville, South Carolina

Any person wishing to comment on the application or obtain additional information with regard thereto should contact in writing the South Carolina Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 11649, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, with a copy to Len S. Anthony, Carolina Power & Light Company, Post Office Box 1551, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602.

**LIST OF NEWSPAPERS IN WHICH PUBLIC NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED ON  
NOVEMBER 27, 2002**

The Florence Morning News, Florence, South Carolina

The News and Press, Darlington, South Carolina

The Messenger, Hartsville, South Carolina

163637

